

The Rural District Council of Drayton.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1914.

To the Rural District Council of Drayton.
Gentlemen,—

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the health of your district for the year 1914.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural Sanitary District of Drayton comprises an area of upwards of 50,000 acres situate in the great central plain of England. The general elevation of the district is about 300 feet above sea level. The district extends from the parishes of Moreton Saye, Adderley, and Norton-in-Hales on the north, to the parish of Woore on the north-east, where the three counties, Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire, join; to the south as far as and including the parishes of Hinstock and Childs Ercall and the villages of Eaton and Little Bolas. On the east it is bounded by the River Tern and the parish of Cheswardine. On the west it extends to and includes the parish of Stoke-on-Tern, the parish and village of Hodnet and the hamlet of Marchamley. The formation throughout is the new red sandstone, which attains its greatest elevation in England in the Hawkstone Hills, near the western limit of the district. The River Tern in its winding course to the Severn drains the greater portion of the district. The land in general contour is level, well watered, highly cultivated, and there are some finely timbered residential estates. The population is employed chiefly in agricultural pursuits.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the statistics following, the usual comparisons with averages of 10 previous years are not given this year because of the separation of the Urban District of Market Drayton from the Rural District of Drayton. The statistics given for 1914 relate to Drayton Rural District only. The estimated population at the middle of 1914 was 7,485. The natural increase of population (that is, the excess of the births over the deaths) in the year was 55. The area of the district (exclusive of area covered by water) is 50,171 acres. The number of inhabited houses at the last census (1911) was 1,663. The average number of persons in each house was 4.4.

MARRIAGES.—The number of marriages registered during the year was 47.

BIRTHS.—The number of births registered in 1914 was 155, of which 12 were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 20.7 per 1,000.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered was 92. This includes 4 “non-residents” whose deaths have to be deducted; but 12 “residents” died outside the district, and these deaths have to be added, making a net total of 100 deaths—equal to a death-rate of 13.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population per annum.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Twelve infants under one year of age died during the twelve months, giving an infant mortality rate of 77 per 1,000 births.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.—Of the 100 deaths, 61 were of the age of 65 years and upwards, and 13 under five years. Eleven deaths were certified as due to old age or senile decay—six males and five females—the average age attained by the males was 85, by the females 81½. Heart disease accounted for 14 deaths, cancer or malignant disease 9, consumption and other tuberculous diseases 9, not a single death occurred from bronchitis, 5 were ascribed to pneumonia, 5 to Bright’s disease of the kidneys, 6 to cerebral hemorrhage, and 3 to gangrene. There were 8 premature births, 4 deaths from violence, and 3 suicides.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Twenty cases of infectious disease were notified during the year—nine of scarlet fever, 4 of diphtheria, 1 of ophthalmia neonatorum, and 6 of pulmonary and other forms of tuberculosis. No cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, as additions and alterations were being made to it at the time. Measles and whooping cough are not yet notifiable. Pulmonary tuberculosis (phthisis or consumption) has been voluntarily notifiable since 1900. All tuberculous diseases are now compulsorily notifiable. In all cases of infectious disease notified to me printed instructions are at once sent to the occupiers of the infected houses, stating the precautions to be taken in order to prevent the spread of infection and as to keeping children away from school. Notices are also sent to the school teachers stating the periods children from infected houses are to be excluded from school. Where unsanitary conditions have been found, they have been reported to the Council either by the Sanitary Inspector or myself. At the termination of all cases and immediately after the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital or Sanatorium, disinfection and efficient cleansing of the infected rooms have been carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. At the Isolation Hospital a steam disinfectant is used for clothing, etc., before the patient is allowed to leave.

SCHOOLS CLOSED.—Hinstock for a week in February on account of influenza; Moreton Say and Stoke-on-Tern for two months each on account of measles; Hodnet, Heber Percy, and Childs Ercall for three weeks each in consequence of chicken pox.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN (OUTSIDE LONDON) ORDER, 1910.—The cost of administration of antitoxin in all cases of diphtheria has been defrayed by the Council since January, 1899.

VACCINATION IN 1914.—The following statistics of vaccination in your district have been supplied by the Vaccination Officer:—Of the 155 children born and registered, 97 were successfully vaccinated, sixteen were not of age at the end of the year, 9 died unvaccinated, 3 were removed from the district, the vaccination of 3 was postponed by medical certificate, and 27 remain unvaccinated because their parents had conscientious objections to vaccination and made statutory declarations to that effect.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.—Fifty-one houses were inspected. No closing orders were made. Defects were remedied in 28 houses. Eleven are still under consideration. Twelve were in good condition.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.—Lodging-houses, bakehouses, and slaughter-houses are regularly inspected. The whole of the dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops in the district were systematically inspected in 1910-11, and special reports sent to the Local Government Board and the County Council. A note of the defective conditions found was sent to each occupier and a good many improvements have resulted. Much more remains to be done in the way of structural alterations, and for the increase of lighting and ventilation. There are 102 cowkeepers and milk sellers on the register. The Sanitary Inspector is making a detailed inspection.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—The scheme for drainage, and the treatment of the sewage of a part of the village of Hinstock, has not been begun because the Local Government Board are unwilling to sanction a loan for the purpose at present. In October, 1913, I inspected the sewers and the means of disposal of sewage in Cheswardine village, and a special report was sent to the Local Government Board and to the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector is preparing plans for new sewers and for the scientific treatment of the sewage at the outfall.

WATER SUPPLY.—Betton and Ridgwardine are supplied by the Market Drayton Water Company. The spring which has been selected for the supply of Norton-in-Hales has been tested for a considerable time, and found to be constant and sufficient in quantity.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—The official tables of the Home Office, showing the administration of the Act in the district, are affixed to this report.

NUISANCES, DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS, HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—Three tables are attached giving summaries of the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year. The table relating to nuisances, etc., is printed below.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector of Sanitary Work for the year ending 31st December, 1914, in the Drayton Rural Sanitary District:—

Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic sanitary survey	426
Number of legal notices sent	14
Number of informal notices sent	75
Number of such notices complied with ...	68
Number of letters written	23
Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices:	
Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	12
Deficient or objectionable water supply ...	12
New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	52
New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	22
Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	44
Offensive accumulations of all kinds	28
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	9
Houses overcrowded	2
Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis)	12
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis ...	3
Plans for new houses passed	5
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses	1
Private wells re-constructed or improved ...	12
Proceedings before magistrates	0

Remarks.—The above numbers do not include inspections of lodging houses, bakehouses, slaughter houses, inspections under the Factory Acts, Canal Boats Acts, Petroleum Acts, and other work done as Surveyor in connection with sewers and sewage disposal.

W. COTTERILL,
Inspector of Nuisances.